



SIGMA
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სახელმწიფო შესყიდვების სააგენტო
STATE PROCUREMENT AGENCY

3rd Regional Public Procurement Conference For ENP EAST Countries

5-8 November 2019
Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

AGENDA

Tuesday 5 November

19:00 – 21:00 **Welcome reception** (hosted by SIGMA) at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel

Wednesday 6 November

Morning session

09:00 – 09:55 Registration

10:00 – 10:15 **Opening & welcome:**
Ms. Maia Tskitishvili, Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, EU Ambassador to Georgia (tbc)

10:15 – 12:00 **Public procurement policy: priorities and challenges**

During the session, the speakers will discuss the main vectors defining the context, the framework and the overall objectives of the public procurement reform: both in the EU context and at the national level.

- Mr. Bonifacio Garcia Porras, Head of Unit, DG GROW: *European Commission's policy priorities for public procurement*
- Ms. Erika Bozzay, OECD/GOV/PSI – *Progress in implementing the OECD Recommendations on Public Procurement*
- Mr. Levan Razmadze, Chairman of the Georgian SPA: *Reform of the Georgian public procurement system – key achievements and challenges*

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

Afternoon session 1

13:00 – 14:00 **Efficiency of the public procurement system**

Efficiency in spending taxpayers' money is the ultimate goal of the public procurement system, but measuring it in practice is not an easy task. Various strategies for measuring savings in public procurement and detecting waste and fraud will be discussed, based on practical examples.

- Ms. Angela Russo, Consip, Italy – *Challenges of measuring the efficiency of national public procurement system*
- Mr. Paulo Magina, OECD/GOV/PSI – *Central Purchasing Bodies: a framework for measuring productivity and economic impact*

Afternoon session 2

14:15 – 15:45 Modern tools for better procurement

The presentations and panel discussion will focus on practical examples of tools that have been implemented in the EU member states and countries in the region in order to streamline the procurement process and make it more modern and efficient. Special emphasis will be put on recent experiences in the application of IT solutions (electronic procurement).

- Mr. Dariusz Koba, Poland – *Contract award criteria for maximising the quality of public procurement*
- Mr. Uwe Flach, BBG Austria – *Centralised purchasing, framework agreements and modern IT instruments as tools for optimising public procurement*
- Panel: *IT tools for increasing efficiency and transparency and lowering the costs of the procurement procedures:*
 - Belarus,
 - Moldova,
 - Ukraine.

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

Afternoon session 3

16:00 – 17:00 Access to procurement markets

The session will focus on efforts to increase competitiveness and facilitate the opening of procurement markets – both in the trans-border and national context (for small-to-medium sized enterprises).

- Ms. Carmen-Raluca Ipate, DG GROW - *Overview of the efforts by the EU to open procurement markets in the context of association and free trade agreements and measures to facilitate access for small and medium sized enterprises*
- Mr. Daniel Ivarsson, Sweden – *Access to procurement for small and medium sized enterprises in the ENP East region – an overview*

20:00 – 22:00 Dinner (hosted by SIGMA) at Republic Restaurant (6 Rose Revolution Square, Tbilisi 0108)

Thursday 7 November

Morning session

9:00 – 10:30 Procurement Review Bodies as guardians of integrity and compliance

A crucial mechanism for protecting the legality and integrity of the procurement process is guaranteeing access to justice for, at least, economic operators participating in public tenders and other persons having an interest in obtaining public contracts. The international regulations (EU Directives, Government Procurement Agreement (WTO/GPA) lay down basic requirements of independence and efficiency of the review systems. Practical case studies, both from the region and from the EU, will be presented and discussed during the session.

- Mr. Laszlo Kojnok, DG GROW & Gheorghe Cazan, SIGMA – *Key requirements for independent and efficient review system*
- Ms. Tadeja Pusnar, Slovenian Procurement Review Commission, EU Twinning Project in Georgia: *Establishment of the procurement review system in Georgia: key dilemmas and challenges*

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – 12:00 Panel: *Organisation of the national procurement review systems:*

- Armenia,
- Moldova,
- Greece.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

Afternoon session 1

A properly functioning independent review system is indispensable, but not sufficient to discover and prevent all malpractices. As the recent experience of countries in transition shows, civil society may play a significant role in monitoring the implementation of procurement procedures, providing a vital supplement to other control and monitoring tools.

13:00 – 14:00 The role of civil society in monitoring the implementation of procurement rules

- Ms. Eliza Niewiadomska, EBRD & Viktor Nestulia, Open Contracting – *Data-driven tools for increasing transparency of procurement operations*
- Panel: *Monitoring of procurement processes by civil society – practical examples:*

- Ms. Ana Đurnić, Institut Alternativa, Montenegro
- Ms. Anastasiya Kozlovtseva, Transparency International Ukraine
- Mr. Hamish Goldie-Scot, CoST UK Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard

Afternoon session 2

14:00 – 15:45 **Gathering ideas for further improvements**

The final session will be devoted to analysing various tools available to systematically describe and evaluate the national public procurement systems – to compare, gauge the progress and generate ideas for further improvements, as well as to discuss latest challenges in procuring innovative goods.

- Mr. Uwe Flach/Mr. Stefan Wurm, BBG Austria – *Innovation partnership in Austria – examples of purchasing innovative products and services*
- Mr. Paulo Magina, OECD/GOV/PSI & Mr. Marian Lemke, SIGMA – *MAPS and SIGMA PAR Principles – tools for analysing and assessing the national procurement systems*

Panel: Plans for future developments of the public procurement systems in the ENP region:

- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Ukraine

15:45 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00 – 17:00 **Closing session**

- Mr. Piotr-Nils Gorecki, SIGMA – *Two decades of lessons learnt of public procurement reform*

Main findings and recommendations of the conference - discussion

20:00 – 22:00 **Dinner** (hosted by SIGMA) at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel

Friday 8 November

Cultural and social programme organised by the Georgian State Procurement Agency:

In order to foster networking, to establish communication and professional links, to encourage co-operation and professional links in the ENPI region between the national public procurement authorities and practitioners, and in order to strengthen co-operation between national authorities and EC, OECD, SIGMA, EBRD and WB officials, the Georgian hosts are organising a one-day event on 08 November.

The participants are invited to have breakfast at the hotel on 08 November, check out from the hotel and meet in the lobby at 10:00 AM.

The group will visit the Kakheti region, the Tsinandali Estate and Botanical Garden¹, the beautiful town of Telavi², historical and art museums, take part in a wine tasting and have an official dinner at the Mosmieri Winery Estate³. The programme will end at the Tbilisi International Airport on 09 November early morning to meet the departure requirements of event participants.

¹ <http://www.tsinandali.ge/en>

² https://georgia.travel/en_US/kakheti/telavi

³ <http://mosmieri.ge/>